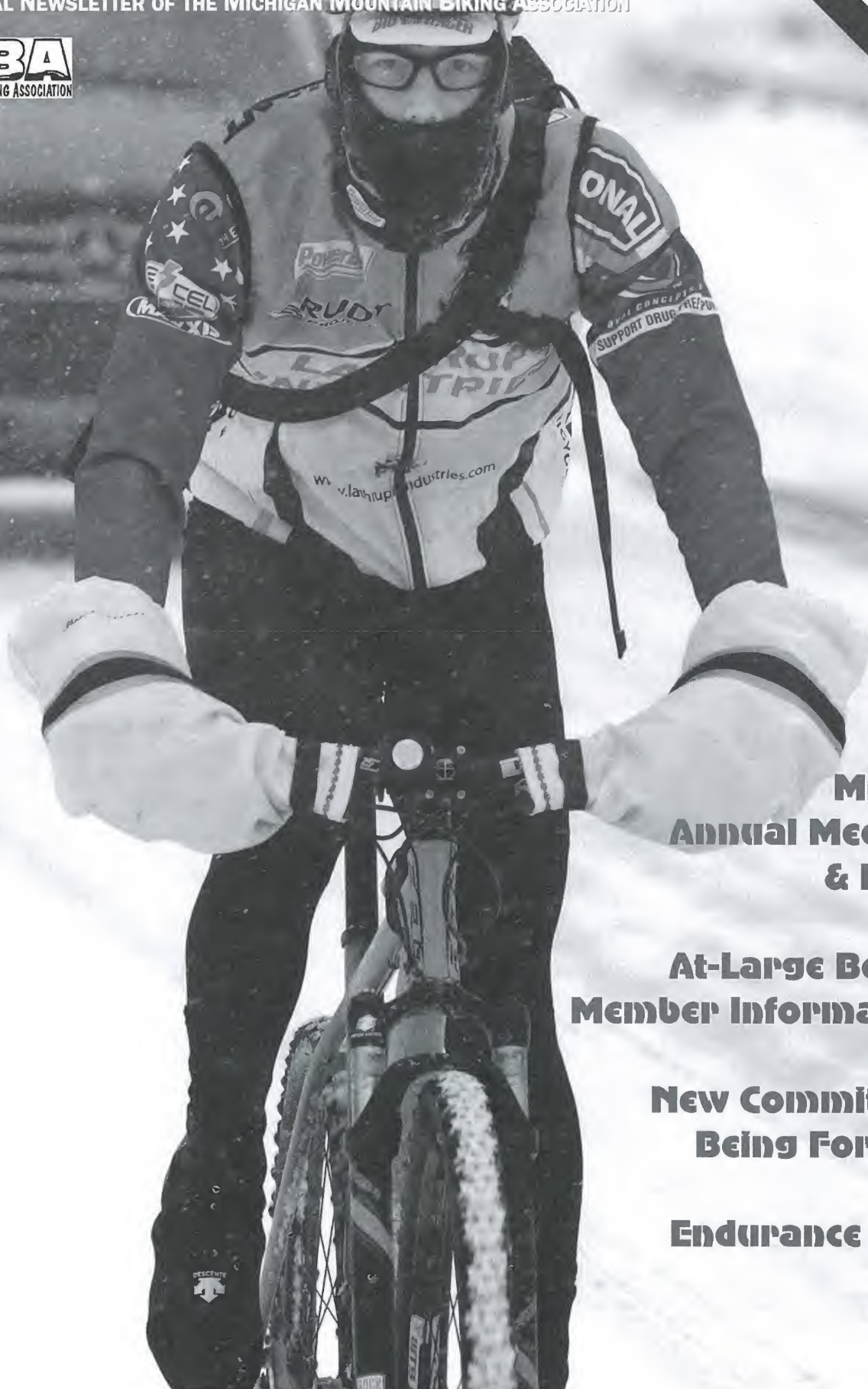


BENT RIM BUGLE

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE MICHIGAN MOUNTAIN BIKING ASSOCIATION



**MMBA
Annual Meeting
&
Expo
Feb. 22, 2009**



**MMBA
Annual Meeting
& Expo**

**At-Large Board
Member Information**

**New Committees
Being Formed**

Endurance 101

2009 HONKY TONK

IN THE PEDALARIAN PARADISE OF PORTLAND, OREGON, PEOPLE WANT AFFORDABLE COMMUTER BIKES THAT RIP. KONA FACTORY TEAM RIDER AND SELLWOOD CYCLE OWNER ERIK TONKIN TOLD US SO. WE'VE BUILT HIM A FRAME IN THE PAST, BUT THIS YEAR HE GETS THE FULL RIDE. CHROMOLY FRAME, DURA-ACE DOWNTUBE SHIFTERS, CITY SPEED COME TO LIFE. GET DOWN WITH THE NEW

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The Michigan Mountain Biking Association (MMBA) is a 501-(C)(3) non-profit organization. We have 1,600 members in nine chapters throughout Michigan. The mission of the MMBA is to promote responsible mountain biking and to work toward the goals of common land access and natural resource protection through interaction with policy makers, the cycling industry, race promoters, mountain bikers and other trail users. The Bent Rim Bugle is published four times a year (March, June, Sept, Dec.) by the Michigan Mountain Biking Association and distributed to all members. It is made possible by volunteers and riders like you.

Bent Rim Bugle

EDITOR: Hans Nyberg

Letters/Comments/Submissions

Bent Rim Bugle

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Waterford, MI 48327

Visit the MMBA on the web at:

www.mmba.org

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BRB Information

The Bent Rim Bugle (BRB) began over 15 years ago. Back then, the Michigan DNR was on the verge of closing all state land to mountain bikes. The BRB was the means for organizing the state's off road cyclists to work for continued access.

Today the BRB still carries the torch for off road advocacy, it has become the official newsletter of the MMBA. Published quarterly, the BRB keeps the MMBA membership up to date on what's happening throughout the State.

Contributing articles, artwork, and photos

If it's about mountain biking, please send it in. Electronic submissions should go to brb@mmba.org. We prefer documents in Microsoft Word, or simple text. Photos should be in jpg format and at least 300 dpi. We can't promise everything will get published, but we'll do our best. For more information on how to submit contact brb@mmba.org

Advertise in the BRB

The Bent Rim Bugle offers inexpensive and targeted advertising which helps with the cost of producing this cool newsletter.

Winter 2008 Issue No. 86

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Contact us at brb@mmba.org for more info and ad rates.

Additional Copies

Additional copies of the BRB can be purchased for \$3.00 each, based on availability. Contact brb@mmba.org.

Note: The Quarterly Membership Report was not available for this issue.



This is our classic not-too-dressy, not-too-shabby hat made by Adams Fashion Headwear. It's got their Cool Crown with mesh lining to promote cooling and minimize staining. The outer shell is 100% cotton while the lining is nylon. Has a leather adjustable strap and one size fits all. The MMBA logo is stylishly embroidered in front.

\$15.00 at the MMBA Store
mmba.org

Cover photo by Hans Nyberg/Ten Mile Media



From the Desk of the Executive Director

express your support on keeping our parks funded.

"I am hopeful that it will pass," John Gonway, MMBA Director of Governmental Affairs said. "A lot of Michigan residents get value out of those parks, but our largest worry is that this will be seen as a tax."

More updates and information will be available on the website, and for any other governmental affairs issue, contact our Director of Governmental Affairs John Gonway, dga@mmba.org

Grants and Sponsorships

REI Trail School Grant: The trail school gets a facelift. This summer REI generously approved a grant for \$4500 for more tools and books for the MMBA/REI trail school. The trail school is in place for members and non-members to learn how to build multi-use sustainable trail based on the IMBA standards. Stay tuned for a check presentation ceremony. To learn more about the trail school and/or to become involved contact Marne at execdir@mmba.org.

Additional grants and funding opportunities are also being researched and acted on. If you would like to pass along a suggestion, please e-mail me at execdir@mmba.org.

Marketing and Communications

Don't do trail work? Envious of your fellow riders when they show off their Ed Berta's First Across The Finish Line Awards? There are many other opportunities to be involved with the MMBA and avoiding manual labor. We are in need of dedicated folks to meet a few times a month and work with board members on projects with membership, marketing, and programming.

Bike Shop Program: A larger presence in bike shops through employee promotions, marketing literature, and poster. Recruit new members and develop easy-to-use mechanisms for bike shops to sign up members. We need 3-5 people, with vary skills of graphic designs, communications, bike shop knowledge

Revamp sponsorship literature: Develop new sponsorship levels for corporate and

affiliate members. We need 2-3 people motivated people.

Website workgroup: Update website and increase usability

We need 2-3 web programmers and a graphic designer

Chapter marketing in a box: Outline items and marketing tools each chapter could use to reach their membership better. We need 3-5 motivated people.

Don't know where you fit? Don't have any skills? No problem, contact Marne at execdir@mmba.org and I will point you in the right direction.

Annual Meeting

The annual meeting will take place on February 10th at will once again be at the Springfield Oaks County Parks. The schedule is as follows

7:30- Exhibitor Halls opens for setup
9am- Blizzard Blaster Ride at Pontiac Lake
10-1pm Bike Swap Meet
10-1pm Expo area officially opens
1-4pm Annual meeting

Expo booth space will be available starting Jan 1st, if you are interested contact Marne at execdir@mmba.org And check back at the main page for any other updates.

As I have set foot out as the MMBA's newest representative I have been reminded repeatedly the MMBA is a well respected organization. I have met with other non-profits, legislators, committee boards and we are constantly commended on our trail work, our website, our enthusiasm, our commitment and more. We are not just people who ride bikes, we are people who care about the environment's sustainability, trail access, and other user groups. We are a viable user group showing our strengths on issues like the Shingle Mill Pathway, and a group I am proud to represent.

Thank you to those who have built the MMBA to what it is today, and I look forward to taking us to the next level.

-Marne Smiley

The past few months have been very busy and exciting. The board and I are working hard to make the MMBA a better organization to be a strong voice for our membership through the education at our trail school, the revitalization of our membership committee and creating guidelines for new chapters to become apart of the MMBA. Here are just a few other things that we are working on:

Advocacy:

Shingle Mills Update: The MMBA state level and board banded together for this proposal. The bike ban at The Shingle Mill Pathway was a good catalyst for our members, and thank you to the nearly 500 people that signed our petitions. DNR Director Rebecca Humphries, did not pass an immediate ban and is forming workgroups and input sessions for the user groups of the trail.

In a meeting with top DNR officials on Dec 7th, the MMBA asked to not only be on the workgroup but more enhanced access to other committee and workgroups in the future.

For any other advocacy information please contact our Director of Advocacy Jason Jones. advocacydirector@mmba.org

Governmental Affairs:

DNR Park Funding Update: In response to the threat of up to 37 parks slated to close in 2009, a resolution for a \$9 license registration fee to be assessed in lieu of the \$24 motor vehicle and boating pass. The resolution comes from a DNR citizens advisory group and is modeled after a successful Montana structure. A \$9 will be charged when registering your vehicle with an optional opt out at a later time.

The next hurdle is to introduce and get it passed through the legislators, this resolution needs our support and strongly recommend you contact your local legislators to

Presidents Report

When I first joined the MMBA State Board something quickly became apparent. For as long as anyone can remember the issue of money transferring from the State level to the Chapters was a sore subject. The MMBA has always been run on a fairly shoestring budget, and the reality was that the root cause was not desire but a lack of funds. There was only a small remainder available to be passed along in the form of a quarterly allocation based on the number of active members that belonged to each Chapter.

So what to do? The State MMBA, our Executive Director and boring things like insurance are what make the organization run and when combined with providing our member benefits (i.e. the Bent

Rim Bugle) we are at our annual budget. But our Chapters are our "feet on the ground" that hold workdays, craft relationships with park managers, watch the local issues and recruit new members. In the past Chapters would hold their own fundraising events (like the Triple Trail Challenge here at the Poto Chapter) or Races to provide their working capital, but the reality is that some Chapters are better equipped than others to raise funds. So what to do?

The solution is simple and elegant: bring our membership fee into line with the rest of the Nation's clubs and advocacy groups and pass 100% of the additional revenue along to our chapters. This will bring multiple benefits, the first of which is

to inspire our chapter leaders to recruit new MMBA members.

Every new member that is added to our base is \$5 in the Chapter's account each year. What does \$5 mean? Many of the projects we undertake are not expensive (relatively speaking), but when the money is combined with a new pair of hands think of what we can accomplish. What if you were in the position of being asked "if we already had the money, what would you like at your favorite trail"? Would it be a new bridge, a stunt, a re-route or armoring that section that is just too steep to be sustainable (but you love it). What if your Chapter got a raise for 2009? What would you do with it? It's time to start dreaming.

-Bill Mayer

The solution is simple and elegant: bring our membership fee into line with the rest of the Nation's clubs and advocacy groups and pass 100% of the additional revenue along to our chapters.



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for MMBA Members



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See Stores for Details

www.AmericanCycleandFitness.com

Annual Meeting

When: February 22nd 2008

Where: Lansing Center- 333 E Michigan Ave, Lansing, MI

This is the premier event for people in the cycling and outdoor community to come together and swap parts, stories, and just meet each other.

- **More than 1000 attendees**
- **A great place to connect with other mountain bikers**
- **Advocacy educational forum in conjunction with IMBA**
- **Awards for CPS, First Across Finish Line & Volunteers of the year**
- **Games and entertainment**
- **Pre-expo Blizzard blaster ride at local Lansing trails**
- **Heat and professional setting**
- **Central to our members**

We will also be teaming up with local media outlets, retailers and other non-profit organizations to promote the expo. The MMBA is actively seeking partnerships with all the above.

Tentative Schedule

7:00am	Hall opens
10-4	Expo opens and silent auction opens
10-12:00pm	Advocacy Roundtable
12-12:30	Bike Fit demonstration

and Expo

12:30-1	Introduction of chapter presidents
	Volunteer of the year awards
2-2:45	CPS Awards
3:00	Silent auction closes
3:15	Executive Director Report
3:30	Guest Speaker (TBA)

Vendor and booth information*

Booth Space: 10x10 space with two chairs

Electricity and Telephone lines available at additional costs.

All Vendors:	\$200
Approved Non-profits:	Fees waived
Silver Corporate Membership and above:	Fees waived
Swap Meet:	\$20 a table

***Save \$50 with a \$75 product donation to silent auction**

Want to be a vendor, but don't have the cash? We do not want to turn any vendor away. We have a limited number of opportunities to pay in product by making a \$300 silent auction donation. All silent auctions must be approved by Marne Smiley.

2009 MMBA At-Large Board Member Election Information

- Emil Sims

At each year's MMBA Annual Meeting & Expo, the membership will vote in 4 At-Large Members of the MMBA Board of Directors. The MMBA State Board is made up of these At-Large Board Members, as well as one Representative from each Chapter.

As a group, board members are in charge of establishing a clear organizational mission, forming the strategic plan to accomplish the mission, overseeing and evaluating the plan's success, ensuring financial solvency of the organization, interpreting and representing the community to the organization, and instituting a fair system of policies and procedures for human resource management. This is accomplished through 4 Quarterly meetings per year, and regular e-mail discussions.

As an MMBA member, you have the opportunity to select these At-large board members.

GETTING CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Two weeks prior to the Annual Meeting, information on the candidates will be posted on the "MMBA News" Forum in the Forums section of the mmba.org. This will allow the MMBA membership to get an understanding of the candidates.

VOTING PROCESS

You can vote in person at the Annual Meeting & Expo or by Proxy:

1) At the Annual Meeting: all MMBA members will receive a ballot when they sign in. Votes are tallied and winners are then announced at the end of the meeting.

2) By Proxy- mail or fax in a 'ballot' as described below.

To vote by fax: Fax the above to: 248-488-3908. When faxing, please send an e-mail to simse@ntcna.nissan-usa.com to indicate that a fax has been sent.

To vote by mail: Send the above: Emil Sims
15563 Merion Ct. Northville, MI 48168.

The "ballot" for fax/mail must be a piece of paper that has:

- names of up to 4 candidates
- Voter's name printed
- Voter's name signed

The name of the voter is required in order to prevent this person from voting again at the annual meeting.

Any questions, please contact me at simse@ntcna.nissan-usa.com. Hope to see you at the Annual Meeting & Expo!



In northern Michigan, you'll find mile after mile of unspoiled terrain. After your ride, enjoy our gathering of resort communities along the lake. Their easy-going attitude and unhurried pace make this the perfect place to continue a biking tradition. Or begin a new one.

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Petoskey ♦ Harbor Springs ♦ Boyne City

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New Committees Being Formed

- Marne Smiley

Are you envious of First-Across-The-Finish line volunteer awards, but hard labor and trail work aren't your ideas of fun or giving back? There is a solution! The MMBA is creating new committees focusing on marketing, advocacy and membership. The committees are being created to give the membership a way to give feedback and have a direct influence on the future of the MMBA. It also gives the membership a variety of opportunity to volunteer in small, manageable roles, and serves as a great option for those that don't want to work on trail, but still want to make a difference.

Marketing Committee

This committee will interface with public and media outlets.

- Create lists of local media contacts and keep current

- Create a larger presence in bike shops and other MMBA supporter businesses
- Running the store

Advocacy Committee

This committee will work with local government, land managers, legislative

- Organize grassroots efforts in the area
- Coordinate trail schools in area
- Put together guidelines for opening new trails
- Help watch legislative related to cycling and outdoor use

Membership Committee

This committee will work with current members and build new members

- MMBA presence at CPS and other MTBing events

- Create recruiting guidelines for individuals, families, and corporate members
- Create unique programs or competitions to get more members involved

The MMBA needs your help, Your opinion and thoughts are valuable and with only a few hours a month, you can really give the MMBA direction. These committees great options for that stay-at-home parent with a dusty diploma, anyone with over 5,000 posts on the forum or the lurkers that read their posts, someone with a weekend job that can never make trail days, those court-ordered community service hours, racers that can't mess up their training schedule with heavy lifting, or anyone that is reading this right now.

I hope to hear from you and if you would like to learn more or become involved in a committee, please contact Marne at execdir@mmba.org.

Future Trust Fund Grants Threatened

-Todd Scott
m-bike.org

Since 1976, Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grants have been a fundamental source for funding recreation and parkland acquisition in Michigan. That funding has been used at the local and county levels, as well as by the DNR. Many of Michigan's rail-trail projects exist because the Trust Fund helped purchase the land or build the trail. This year the Trust Fund Board has recommended funding for 81 recreation projects and land acquisitions totaling \$48.5 million be funded. This was the most ever awarded for Trust Fund grants. This is due to the

"The recommendations made today by the Trust Fund board will provide important outdoor recreation opportunities for Michigan families and help protect some of the places that make Michigan a conservation leader," said Department of Natural Resources Director Rebecca Humphries. "The Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund helps enhance the quality of life in our state for citizens and visitors, making Michigan a national leader in creating prime outdoor recreation opportunities for all."

higher prices paid for mineral (including oil & gas) leases on state property.

"Michigan is blessed with natural resources and special places that should be protected and enjoyed for generations to come," said Governor Granholm. "These recommendations represent ways that we can ensure that Michigan citizens and visitors will be able to enjoy outdoor recreation now and in the future."

A Threat to the Trust Fund

The Trust Fund is building an endowment so that it can continue to fund recreation projects and land acquisition projects long after the Michigan's gas and oil reserves run out. That's not the threat.

The threat is the Michigan Transportation Funding Task Force who recently recommended that the Trust Fund monies be diverted into the transportation budget. This Task Force was charged with finding new ways to pay for Michigan's transportation systems. With American driving less and driving more fuel efficient vehicles, less fuel is being sold. Less taxes are collected. Less money is available for roads. And the Trust Fund can look like a big piggy bank to those in need.

Fortunately in 1985 Michigan voters put the Trust Fund in the state constitution to protect it from bad ideas such as this. And in the words of Dennis Much more, the MUCC Executive Director, "Raiding the Trust Fund would be an outrageous and unwarranted attempt to circumvent the public will."

Plan of Action

Fortunately, due to the constitutional protection, it would take a lot of political capital and time for the transportation people to successfully raid the Trust Fund. There's no sneaking up on it.

Still, it doesn't hurt to contact Governor Granholm now to let her know you oppose diverting the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund for transportation. After all, the Task Force recommendations were presented to her.

You can contact the Governor through the web site (<http://www.michigan.gov/gov/>) or by calling (517) 373-3400.

2008 Recommended Grants

As noted earlier, 81 grants were recommended by the Trust Fund Board this year. Those recommendations are sent to the state legislature for final approval. That typically happens by late summer. Here are some of the highlights that should positively affect Michigan trails:
Recreation Projects

Alpena to Cheboygan State Rail-Trail Surface Improvements, \$500,000. This project includes surfacing improvements to over 70 miles of state rail-trail, and includes surface, grading, drainage, bridges, culverts, surface amenities and signage.



City of Pontiac, Clinton River Trail Bridge, \$485,000. This project will construct a new pedestrian bridge, approach and ramps over Telegraph Road. This is absolutely huge and it almost didn't make the cut. This is only partial funding. Additional grant money will be required.

City of Ishpeming, Iron Ore Heritage Trail, \$354,800. This project includes construction of 2.2 miles of non-motorized trail from Brownstone to Winthrop Junction in the City of Ishpeming as part of the 45-mile Iron Ore Heritage Trail.

Kensington Metropark-Milford Trail Connector, \$315,000. The project would include 1.2 miles of paved trail from the Kensington Metropark loop trail to the Milford-Kensington Trail (at the Dairy Queen.)

City of Portland, Portland Trail Connector Loop, \$284,800. This project will develop 3,000 feet of 10-foot wide asphalt trail which would connect two existing trails and complete a loop around the city.

Delta Township (Eaton County), Sharp Park East-West Connector, \$244,700. This project includes a 10-foot wide, 7,042 lineal feet bituminous paved shared use path between Creyts Road and Elmwood Road within Sharp Park.

City of Niles, Riverfront and Plym Park Trail Development, \$170,500. This project will include development of a 1.79 mile extension of an existing trail within Riverfront Park northward to Plym Park and southward to the city limits.

Land Acquisitions

Grand River Edges Rail-Trail Acquisition, \$850,000. This project would acquire 0.85 miles of inactive railroad corridor along the Grand River in the City of Grand Rapids, which will connect the city to the State Trail Network and over 200 miles of state rail-trail.

City of Flint, Grand Traverse Greenway Property Acquisition, \$525,000. This project will acquire abandoned rail corridor for the development of a three-mile regional trail extension that will connect to Riverbank Park in downtown Flint and the 12.5 mile Flint River Trail.

City of Petoskey, Skyline Trail Acquisition, \$99,000. This project will acquire 65 acres of land to link together over 800 acres of city and State of Michigan lands to provide a route for a new trail section of the national North Country Trail.

Michigan Air-Line Railway (West Bloomfield), \$1,452,500. This project will acquire approximately 17 acres, or 2.5 miles, of railway corridor that connects the existing West Bloomfield trail west to Haggerty Road. This will also connect the West Bloomfield Trail to the planned I-275 Bike Path extension planned along M-5.

Take Action to Increase Opportunities for Bicycling in National Parks

At long last, the U.S. National Park Service (NPS) has proposed a rule change which will make it easier for parks to open trails for mountain biking. IMBA urges mountain bikers to register comments in support of the rule change. IMBA has been asking for this change since the 1990s. We now enter a 60-day commentary period to make the change official.

Take Action Now! Customized letters are most effective.

You can read IMBA's white paper analysis of the proposed rule change and view the entire text in the Federal Register online. We know that several groups are working

to defeat this proposal – it will take thousands of comments in favor of the rule change to ensure it stays intact.

As the proposal explicitly states, none of the NPS procedures for environmental review – or opportunities for public commentary – will be diminished by this change. What it will achieve is a much more manageable system for adopting mountain biking trails. The proposal states, "As a general matter, the proposed rule provides park superintendents with a more efficient and effective way to determine whether opening existing trails to bicycles would be appropriate in the park unit they manage."

IMBA believes that this measure will enhance national parks and deserves your support – please file your comments today!

Sample Letter

Thank you for accepting my comments concerning RIN 1024-AD72, the National Park Service rule change for bicycling. I fully support the proposed rule.

- The special regulations process that restricts bicycling on trails is unduly burdensome and duplicates protections that are already addressed by the NPS General Management Plan and the National Environmental Policy Act.

- This proposed rule would give park superintendents better tools for opening trails to bicycling. It would also treat bicycles like other non-motorized trail uses, such as horseback riding.

- Independent scientific studies, including those conducted by the National Park Service, have shown the environmental impacts of mountain biking are similar to those of hiking, and far less than other uses.

- The best research regarding social interactions on trails reveals those who encounter other user groups report very favorably on their interactions. Claims otherwise are unsupported by scientific data.

- Shared-use trails are a successful management tool worldwide. NPS staff are skilled at selecting appropriate trails for shared-use by hikers, bicyclists, and equestrians.

- This rule will aid visitor enjoyment for both children and adults. Bicycling broadens the recreational offerings and gets Americans out of their cars and into the natural world. It connects people of all ages with the natural environment and is a fun, low-impact activity.

- Improving opportunities for bicycling and promoting trails tourism could benefit economic conditions for nearby communities.

- Mountain bikers are prolific volunteers—conducting nearly one million hours of trailwork on public lands annually—and could help build environmentally sound, sustainable trails.

Thank you for considering my comment. Bicycling is a wonderful way to explore our national parks and I hope the proposed rule change will be implemented.

Did you find this article useful? If so, please consider joining IMBA! We are a non-profit organization.

Contact: Drew Vankat, Policy Analyst
drew@imba.org

Trailbuilders Conference March 15–20, 2009 Asheville, NC

Sunday & Monday, March 15-16: One- and two-day Workshops on trail design, construction, maintenance, and/or management topics

Tuesday-Thursday, March 17-19: Core conference with a Vendor Trade Show, concurrent sessions, a Tuesday night networking party, and an Awards Banquet on Wednesday evening.

Friday, March 20: One-day Workshops

The core conference typically attracts over 250 attendees from all types of organizations and agencies.

The Professional Trailbuilders Association (PTBA) has more information at www.trailbuilders.org

Chapter Chatter

Metro North

Another season has come to an end, but we had a busy fall in the Metro North chapter, with lots of stuff going on. Lot's of events and trail activity.

Stony Creek has had two new reroutes go in on the Roller Coaster, eliminating troublesome sections of trail, and adding some mileage to the single track. We are already scouting out some additional reroutes for the spring, and will be having some spring trail days. Addison Oaks has had some ad-

ditional trail put in this fall. Two news sections that help complete the loop are great additional to an already great trail. And, we have new trails going in also. Jon Rose has helped coordinate the work at Jay Cee Park in Sterling Heights, where some existing trail is being legitimized by volunteers. Aaron Burgess, who leads the Sterling Heights Police Department Bike Patrol Unit, helped pave the way with the City of Sterling Heights to work on and improve the trails. During a couple of trail days this fall, we were able to put in a bridge over a small stream, and clear the trail and fix up some

trouble spots. More work will take place in the spring, so keep your eyes open for announcements. This will be some of the very first legit single track in Macomb country.

We also had a busy fall with events. On September 21st, the Metro North chapter held it's first Chapter Benefit race. Oakland County decided that they no longer wanted to promote and run the race, so we took over the reigns. With the help of many GREAT volunteers, we have a very successful race. We had 333 racers show up, and they all helped break in the short section of single track that we installed the week before the race. We learned a lot in our first year, and now that we have a handle on things, it should go much smoother next year. We are looking forward to doing it again, and hope to make some changes and additions to benefit the racers and give them a very enjoyable event.

We also had our 2nd Annual Massive Fall-out, which started out at Stony Creek this year. We sold every single shirt we had this year (AGAIN), despite doubling the order. The shirts were a massive success, as was the hot food at Addison Oaks. There were well over 200 participates, and I heard nothing but great things from those to got to head out and ride. It's quite obvious that this will become the signature annual event for the Metro North Chapter, and we hope to continue to improve upon our success. Again, thanks to everyone who helped make it happen.

Nasty weather helped put a damper on the Bulletin Board Biker Bash this year, but that's one of the risks of a later fall event. Either way, we want to thank EVERYONE that helped out with the event this year, and all of those who braved the weather to come out and have some fun.

Our next meeting will be at the Rochester Mills on 01/12/2009 @ 6:30PM, and we will be having out annual chapter board elections. We also have the dates set for all of the 2009 chapter meetings:

1/12/2009
4/20/2009
7/13/2009



Stony skills park kiosk

10/12/2009

All of the meetings will be taking place at the Rochester Mills Beer Company, and will be in the meeting room @ 6:30PM. We want to again thank the Rochester Mills for their continued donation of the room to the chapter.

Metro South

My Last Post As President Of Metro South Chapter.....

We had our chapter meeting at Station 885 on Monday 12/01/08 and our primary objective was to have our general election for chapter board members. The members choices for office were...

President - Frank Bean

Vice President - Joe Foy/Bryan Deal

Treasurer - Dave Poirier

Secretary - Claudia Bean

Member At-Large - Dave Cox/Daniel Sterling

After the dust had settled and the votes tallied I'm proud to announce the Metro South Chapter Board.....

President - Frank Bean

Vice President - Bryan Deal

Treasurer - Dave Poirier

Secretary - Claudia Bean

Member At-Large - Daniel Sterling

Well, it's been a great experience being able to represent all of you and this great sport we have all come to love. I was so blessed to have such fine folks as I had working next to me. I would like to give my heartfelt thanks and appreciation to each of them. Frank Bean, Dave Prior, Claudia Bean & Dave Cox, you guys all should be very proud of the fine job we did as a team to make this new chapter what it is today. We kept the main focus on advocacy and trying to break out of the normal boundaries to get our name out to the public and I think it worked.

I have the greatest confidence that the new president Frank Bean will take the reigns and do a fine job representing the chapter and the MMBA. Dave P. & Claudia Bean are returning as Treasurer and Secretary, respectively. Each has done an exceptional job and will continue to do so. The new members of the board, Vice President Bryan & Member at Large, Daniel Sterling are going to be a fine addition and they both have

the best for the chapter at heart, so I'm expecting nothing less than the best from these 2 fine men.

This by no means is this goodbye I plan on still volunteering and working trail days and sponsoring rides so we can share this fine sport and this great organization we have here in the MMBA. I plan on helping the new chapter board as much as they want my help. So I hope to see all of you out at the spring trail days, the Hodaddy's Downtown Hodown Spring Ride. It's been great to have your faith and trust for the last 4 years and I truly hope I did a fine job for all of you.....thanks!!!

Hodaddy signing off!!!!

MidState

With the mountain biking season winding to a close, the MidState Chapter is beginning planning and preparation for 2009. At a recent meeting, we received updates on the status of some of our trails, as well as outlining some exciting priorities for the coming year.

A committee was formed to explore the possibility of creating a MidState Chapter Benefit Race. The committee will begin meeting in early 2009 to discuss venues, formats and dates.

Plans are also underway for a 2009 chapter race team. Although there were some rough spots along the way, many of the team members enjoyed being part of the team and wanted to continue in 2009. With the first year under our belts, there are certain changes that need to be implemented, both in sponsorship and format. A committee was formed to help with this work and we're currently seeking sponsors.

Last summer's Poker Run, held at Burchfield Park, was a fun and successful event for our chapter. Plans are in the works for next year's event. Watch for more details as they become available.

Election of Chapter Officers

New chapter officers were elected and they are the following:

President—Chris Mensing

Vice President—Brad Potter

Secretary—Andrea Davis

Treasurer—Jake Pangle

CPS Rep—David Frost

State Board Rep—Chris Mensing

Trail Updates

Anderson Park—Our newest MidState trail is



open for business. Just over three miles of single track have been built by chapter volunteers, headed up by TC Brad Potter. This brings the total length of the trail to five – six miles, including the pre-existing trail. In late winter/early spring, work will again ramp up in order to complete an additional two – three miles of trail. Another park cleanup day will be scheduled in the spring. Additional work includes kiosk building, signing the new trail, and mapping. Unfortunately, we have had a few incidents of logs and other items being thrown on the trail. Anyone who experiences any problems with this should report it on the MidState forum or contact Brad Potter at bpotter08@gmail.com.

Bennett Park—A planned bridge building has been delayed due to park concerns, but a meeting has been scheduled to discuss the issues and bridge building will commence next summer. Some work has been completed on the old river bed restoration, but vegetation needs to fill in before the water is diverted to the channel. This will allow more single track to be built in the current river area.

Burchfield—This winter more trail building is planned and several bridges will be rebuilt

or rerouted to higher ground. Park officials have approved building new structures as long as they are not any higher. Anyone interested in working on the trail (particularly stunts and jumps) should contact the trail coordinator Jeff Popard at jeff.popard@kramerairtool.com.

Ella Sharp—MidState board members have met with park officials to discuss signage on the trail. Park officials have approved the signage, but signs have not yet been installed. Successful group rides were held at the trail throughout the summer and will continue to be held on Tuesday nights during the winter. Reroutes are still needed in some eroded areas. Cascade Cycling Club continues to maintain the trail, but may need some help.

Heritage Park—The Hare Race date is set for the Saturday before Mother's Day.

Legg Park—An environmental study was conducted and the result was that the Park Commission determined there should be no additional trails built, although riding is allowed on the current trails.

Sleepy Hollow—The Friends of Sleep Hollow would like any help maintaining the trails. No new trail can be added at the park, but the existing trail is gradually smoothing out. The race scheduled for the fall was cancelled, but there is potential for a race in the future.

MidState would like to thank all those who volunteered and attended our events in 2008. We look forward to continued member involvement to build upon our success in the coming year.

Andrea Davis
Secretary

North East

by Jim Crissman

The MMBA Board met in Midland on a beautiful October day, giving us a chance to show off a little of our local singletrack. That's Marne, our fearless MMBA Executive Director, negotiating the teeter-totter in the Midland City Forest (MCF) on her cyclocross mount. NE Chapter Pres, James Lee, aka Uncle Jimmi, shows how it's done.

In the City Forest we have one of those rare trails that gets busier in November because everywhere else is shared with deer hunters. This is not a good time to go flashing through the woods in a brown and white jersey! The improvements we've made to the MCF trail have really helped to keep it solid and dry during the wet weather we've had this fall, and we're planning more armoring in the "dismal swamp" part of the South Loop next spring. Our next big development for the MCF is in the planning and permission stage: a skills park and pump track. We have a young Eagle Scout prospect, Matthew Zawisza, leading the charge and we're quite optimistic. With Boy Scout and MMBA member labor, and recycled treated lumber we hope to get from the City from other renovated park structures, and high clay content fill dirt from local construction sites, we think we can do this next spring on a shoestring budget. We'll keep you posted.

Pine Haven trail coordinator, Jeff Adamcik, again organized an autumn crampathon, "Thirty Miles of Pain Haven", at his adopted singletrack near Sanford. On September 27th, fifty-one riders circled the 9+ mile loop, one, two, or three times, depending on their class. There was swag for beginners and cash for sport and open classes. The race was a family affair, with Jeff's mom baking the treats, his dad helping with timing, and his wife, Jennifer, helping to organize and then running everything while Jeff was on the course spanking the rest of the racers. Yeah, he won again. You don't want to mess with a Clydesdale with 4% body fat. Thanks go to the Stubby Riders who helped to prep the trail prior to the race. More thanks go to the sponsors: Founder's Brewery, Sanford Bar and Grill, Vitamin Water, Civil Engineering Consultants, Inc., John Billette for the cool wicking T-shirts designed by Thea Skinner, and of course our great Midland bike shops, Ray's and Bicycle Headquarters.

Midland County is a great stop for you downstaters headed north for the weekend. Both the MCF and Pine Haven trails are very close to US Rte 10, with plenty of restaurants and hotel rooms nearby. We'd love to show you around.

Northern

Are you a member of the Northern Chapter?? Would you like to help the Northern Chapter grow and be more active in your community?? Then we need you!! The Northern Chapter board has gone through some changes these past few months, and is looking for a few motivated people to fill these positions.

The current board members have taken a step back to basics, and are working with the help of our local bike shops, to spread the word about the MMBA, and help increase the Northern Chapter's memberships.

If you are interested in helping out in any way, please contact Dan O'Neill (aka Nechan) on the MMBA forum or Dave Scott at reptidave@msn.com

Western

This is my last time writing as chapter president. It's been rewarding and honestly more work than I ever envisioned. It is time for a change in leadership with in our chapter. My plan is to stay involved in mtb advocacy.

Grand Rapids has decided to become a Bicycle Friendly City and without representation my feeling is that mtb will not be integrated into the plan. So my time will be split between attending various city committees and as state board rep for the chapter.

Besides myself there are other changes in chapter leadership:

- Rick Plite- chapter president
- Jason Dew- president-elect and chapter vice-president
- Martin Hall- chapter treasurer
- Jennifer Bechtel- chapter secretary

Nate Phelps- state board rep/ past president 2008 was a busy year for the chapter. Volunteer hours tally at over 2200 hours, many hours are attributed to Luton Park. In addition, Bass, Ionia, and Yankee all saw increases in trail maintenance and planning.

In the past we used a Stihl Yardboss, which in capable hands cuts a great bench. New this year, we tried a Toro dingo and a Ditchwitch. Both do well, the Ditchwitch perhaps

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Metro North Photo Gallery





Endurance 101

Q & A of Endurance Events

- Brent Walk

Does the thought of a 6, 8, 12 or 24 hour mountain bike race scare you?

Well it's not as hard as you might think and is really a fun challenge. The race pace is a bit slower and personal goals of seeing how many laps you or your team can get in are your greatest challenges. The festive, relaxed mood, of these events are probably the calling card for an endurance MTB racer. The pit area is where your teammates or support crew can set up camp, you can stop and rest, get some food or exchange riders. You get to ride your bike as much as you want and challenge yourself on lap times as the event progresses.

How do the events run?

We offer a half and full version of all races, 12 & 24 hour events. So at a 12 hour event a 6 hour race is also offered, and for a 24 hour event we also have a 12 hour race. Both start at the same time and the half versions just get done first. We start all

teams both 2 & 4 person - half and full versions at the posted start times then 1 min later all solo riders give chase. We count laps. Time comes into play...if you're on the same lap with your competition when the race time expires, then the first one to finish that lap will win. We do awards for the half versions usually about 1 - 1 1/2 hours after the half races conclusion. You do not have to stick around for the full version to end... unless you want to. We serve a meal after all 12 & 24 hour events....while you eat we present the awards.

What do need for the night portion of an endurance race?

A good light set will make your night riding much more enjoyable. A helmet mounted light is what I would recommend. It is a lot easier if where you are looking at is lit up...your bike is not always pointed where you're looking. A rear flashing light is required. Usually the fastest laps are turned at night, the course will seem to flatten out...with cycling being a mental test of fortitude, a challenging hill that you see coming up during the day will seem flatter at night due to only having the area in front of you illuminated. This may sound corny, but many times I have looked back and found myself at the top of a climb that I usually dreaded during the day. Riding in the dark is not near as challenging as it sounds. The best part about these events is that you are never really alone in the woods. There are always other riders on the course. If you are absolutely sure that riding in the dark is not for you...try a 6 hour event. There is no night portion included for these events. The Stoney Creek race on Aug. 1st will be a 6/12 hour race all run during daylight from 8am till 8pm.

What will I need to bring to a endurance event?

- Extra riding clothes for any conditions
- Food and drinks for the day
- A tent, Camper, RV, Easy-up or your vehicle to pit out of. (At Boyne Mt. we have condos just across the road from the pit area and having a warm bed and kitchen are sure nice for the 12 / 24 hour race they host).
- Chairs, extra bike parts you might need, a support crew of family, friends or teammates to help you meet your race goals
- It's sort of like going camping and getting to race your bike at the same time!

What classes are offered for the Michigan Cup Endurance Series events?

- 5 solo age groups (29 & under, 30-39, 40+, Single Speed, Women)
- 2 person teams: Open Sport and Open Advanced
- 4 person: Open Sport, Open Mixed, and Vets 35+

It's up to you how many laps you go out for at a time. Only 1 person from a team can be on the course at a time. Teams may rest or exchange riders at their will.

Who can do an endurance event?

Anyone! We have had riders as young as 7 years old (riding solo & accompanied by a parent on course). Any riding ability can do these events and they will make you a better rider by the end of the day. All skill levels are welcome just get a group of co-workers, friends or family together to form a team or two and come have a fun time on your bike.

For additional information please visit www.funpromotions.com and feel free to ask questions any time. Registration will open in April for the 2009 events. General event information and rules are posted for each race.



Trail Ownership

- Kurt Richter,
Grand Rapids

November 1, 2008

My final "serious" ride at Cannonsburg Ski Area before another Iceman next Saturday and the trail looks different. I notice the carefully sculpted trail surface with a slight camber, the carved cliff above the trail, and the smooth edge to facilitate water run-off.

The trail looks different because I've transitioned from a renter to an owner.

Before I can look ahead to next week I can't help but think about last Saturday – my first trail work experience. It was cool and rainy which would've been lousy for riding but was good for grooming a newly cut section that will by-pass a narrow sand pit at the bottom of a long, sweeping, blind curve. In just a couple of hours working with those who have given many more, I learned enough to be productive and gain a new appreciation for every yard of trail that cost some volunteer time and energy. Some of these volunteers now have names and faces.

I'm looking forward to my next opportunity to give a couple more hours to the trails because I know each ride after that will be more enjoyable. My sore muscles the next day affirmed the need for more upper-body workouts, so I also consider this strength and conditioning cross-training.

As I concluded my ride with a new perspective, I couldn't help but feel a sense of pride having contributed in a very small way to the improvement of a trail I've ridden dozens of times. In an equally small way, I feel like I own a few yards of the trail and will always ride with a greater level of appreciation because other trail owners have given up riding and other enjoyable activities to make this possible.

While loading my bike I overhear another rider describing the work "they" are doing to improve the trails. Wouldn't it be cool next year to hear him describe the trail that "we" are working on to improve?

Snowy Commute

-Hans Nyberg

Vince Roberge is an accomplished road and cyclocross racer, but he prefers to ride his mountain bike on his commute from Redford to the Trails-Edge bike shop in Plymouth. He rides to work 3–4 days each week.

Vince, 22, has been racing since his thirteenth birthday and has spent several years competing in Europe.

Photos by Hans Nyberg/Ten Mile Media





Author and husband

The Epic NCT Ride - October 2008

- Jennifer Bechtel

What a beautiful weekend for a mountain biking trip! The fall colors are really starting to come into their own as my husband, Jay, and I drive north on 131 away from Grand Rapids. Our final destination is the Pere Marquette River Lodge, which sits along M-37 in Baldwin, MI. Just a little road construction and we are there. Along with the signage, all the bikes on cars in the parking lot indicate it as the right place. While Jay checks us in, I explore the well-prepared selection of fly-fishing gear, hats, and gloves available in the Gift Shop.

Keys in hand, we go find our room in the building next door. The front door opens into a main room area, where we discover some fellow bikers already enjoying the woodsy

decor, sofas and chairs. Soon, others return from an afternoon ride and everyone heads out to dinner. Five of us narrow the choices down to Smokey's (for ribs, etc.) or Woody's (for pizza, etc.). We ultimately head south to Woody's. Upon arrival, I see it would only be fair to place as much emphasis on the "etc." as the pizza. Also, this is not the place to go for microbrews. The fried fish special appeals to Nate, our group President. Jay and I, along with WMMBA members Rick and Kathy, order the pizza and are not at all disappointed.

After a leisurely dinner, we head back to the lodge for the informational meeting in the dining room. Frank (owner and operator of the Pere Marquette) and Rick (organizer of this excursion) explain the details of the trail and our transportation options. Then it's

time to hit the hay since wake-up is set for 5:30 a.m. tomorrow.

Surprisingly, I sleep so comfortably I have to remind myself of where I am the next morning! Breakfast has been provided by the lodge (thank you again Frank!) so we can eat and get the bicycles loaded up. It is dark and chilly but everyone is extremely patient with getting the bicycles loaded. Running only about 20 minutes behind schedule, the last few get packed in and up the road we go. For all the coffee-drinkers in the group, we couldn't have arrived any later, but the drive was really only a little over an hour. We arrive at Marilla Trailhead at about 9:20 a.m.

As I stand in line for the bathroom, bikes are unloaded and most of the groups are gone down the trail before I even realize it. Jay, Kathy, and I had anticipated being at a

slower pace than the others so it worked out well. We were able to hold our position and remain at the end of the groups for the rest of the day.

Starting out at this end of the trail is pretty hilly and I run out of breath in no time. Not a good sign at the start of a "38 mile" ride! We stop to make sure we truly are the last ones and shed layers as needed.

After a while, we meet up with Dave from

Detroit area. We all ride about the same so our group of four continues through the beautiful changing colors and falling leaves. The lack of sandy areas remained a bonus throughout the day. After about 14 miles we run into Chris, who had been recording his ride via helmet-cam. He has a loose seat post but is in good stead with a group to ride with. We had to head on if we were to have any chance of getting back before dark, our pace being what it was. After about 25 miles, at the Udel Trailhead, we realize it is

already 12:30 p.m. We take heart in that the lunch bus is only 13 miles away and we should be there in about 1.5 hrs, at most. I decide I have enough water and don't top-off my Camelback at the spigot since we are so close to the end. Kathy is feeling pretty good and quickly rides on.

All goes well for Dave, Jay, and I until we pop out on a road and ride to an intersection. After some deliberation, we head south. More deliberation, more going south. I am checking my GPS but it seems disoriented and not telling me what I want to know...Did I mention we were hungry, tired, and running a little low on water at this point? I put the GPS away and we decide to go up and try a road we had passed. Finally we see some bicycle tracks in the dust on the side of the road and then thankfully, an NCT Trail marker. We know we are headed in the right direction again.

More riding. A group heads out past us. More riding. Same group passes us on their return trip. We come upon this group at the scenic Boardwalk. We don't want the scenery, we want the lunch bus. We ask how much further to Freesoil Trailhead. As people who have already ridden 42 miles on a 38 mile ride, we are dismayed to hear it is about 5 to 6 miles away! We ignore our complaining legs, butts, and arms to get back on the bikes and crawl over really incredibly decent and flowing trail for what turns out to be only 4 more miles. Wish I would have had fresh legs to enjoy that stretch!

We come out to the road at Freesoil at 3:30 p.m. No bus. But there is Patricia, another rider's wife who had ridden a different area, and her car! We ride up, slightly delirious, and she assures us our three bikes will all fit in and on her vehicle. Apparently the bus waited an extra hour but had to head back before we arrived, so arrangements were made to have Patricia take us back. We are glad to hear all of this, but more importantly, she has sandwiches and Gatorade and pretzels! We later hear from many others in the group that the last stretch before Freesoil did seem to go on strangely long. Those warm peanut butter and jelly sandwiches some may have scoffed initially became the best d#*n PB&J they had ever had.

So, 46 trail miles later, we are back at the



Frank Martin Lodge



Woody's Pizza

(Continued on page 20)



Ed Berta First Across the Finish Line

Trail design, development, and maintenance are key components of the MMBA and mountain biking in Michigan. And little of this would be possible without our dedicated volunteers.

Throughout every year, MMBA volunteers work on trails from simply trimming branches to building some of the best trails in America. The MMBA tallies these efforts and rewards member volunteers who contribute 10 hours of effort. This award program is the Ed Berta First Across the Finish Line (FAFL).

Also, each MMBA Chapter selects a Volunteer of the Year based on exemplary performance. Likewise, the MMBA board chooses a Statewide Volunteer of the Year. All of these awards are presented at the MMBA Annual Meeting on the first Sunday of every February.

Beyond the awards, the MMBA finds it very beneficial to present these volunteer hours to land managers. This shows that we can ride responsibly and be stewards of the trails and other natural resources.

History

The program began in 1997 when an anonymous donor gave \$10,000 to the MMBA. The donation was spread over a few years and spent it on awards for volunteers that worked 10 or more hours on the trail. Due to its success, the MMBA has decided to keep the program running.

"In the past, trail volunteers have so often gone unrecognized and unrewarded for their efforts to make mountain biking possi-

ble for all of us recreational riders and racers alike. No more. Volunteers who go above and beyond the call of trail responsibility will now be recognized in a very, very special way at the MMBA Annual Meetings in the years to come." – a 1997 *Bent Rim Bugle* newsletter article

(Continued from page 19)

lodge, showered, and enjoying a Founders IPA. As others play horseshoes, we sit and learn about the trials and triumphs of other riders. Those who opted for the full 73+ mile experience are gleefully aching. There are many who thought they would do the full but now show no shame that they chose to take the lunch bus back to the lodge. There was a tale of one group getting lost and riding nearly 100 miles!

At about 6:40 p.m., Martin realizes Nate has not returned and a preliminary search party heads out to scout the local roads. At 7 p.m. there is still no word of Nate and a concerted search effort is geared up. Just as they break from an organizational huddle with car keys in hand, Nate appears on M-37, pedaling easy with iPod in ears. All's well that ends well so the now-abandoned Search Party welcomes Nate back and then heads for the dining room to eat an outstanding dinner with dessert prepared by the Pere Marquette River Lodge. The rest of the night is spent relaxing by the fire pit out back. Plans are made to make this a yearly event. If only the weather could be guaranteed!

Sunday arrives bright. Already, people are having to load up so they can get back to places like Indiana and Detroit. Jay and I grab breakfast at the lodge, load up, and turn in the room keys. Reluctant to head back to GR just yet, we stop off at a boat launch by the Pere Marquette River and watch salmon making their way upstream.

Another gorgeous day and I can see why it wouldn't be bad to spend more time on the river. Just think: sitting on a boat, enjoying the scenery, no pedaling! But I know we will be on the bikes tonight, riding out the muscles and wincing at the unforgiving nature of our bicycle seats.

I would do it again!

(Continued from page 14)

a little better. This will be an on-going assessment.

We now have 3 chapter members with seats on city or township planning committees. Often overlooked or seen as political, any opportunity to have a chapter member on an advisory board or planning committee allows us to have a proactive approach in our advocacy efforts.

Mark your calendar for the 20th Annual Yankee TT is Sunday April 19th, 2009. The TT committee has a great event planned to celebrate the anniversary. For more info: <http://yankeespringstt.org>

The 2009 Midwest Mountain Bike Summit will be May 29th-31st in Grand Rapids. Three days of Mountain Bike Advocacy with a Midwest bent will be held at the Cannonsburg Ski Area. For more info: westmtbsummit.com

A run down of 2009 chapter events:
2nd Annual Grand Rapids Bicycle Film Festival- February 7th

Chapter trip-

The Handmade Bicycle Show and Brown County- February 27th-March 1st
20th Annual Yankee TT- April 19th
Midwest Mountain Bike Summit- May 29th-31st

National Trail Day- June 6th

RapidWheelmen/WMMBA group ride and BBQ- late June

National Public Lands Day- September 26th

Chapter trip-

NCT Epic Ride- October 9th-11th

Halloween Party October 31st

Turkey Burner Group Ride- November 27th

Holiday Ride- December

Nate Phelps

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☐ I've enclosed a check payable to MMBA ☐ Bill my MasterCard or Visa

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Choose Chapter Affiliation ☐ Holly/Flint ☐ Metro North ☐ Metro South ☐ Mid-State ☐ Northeast ☐ Northern & U.P. ☐ Potawatomi ☐ Southwest ☐ Western

Personal Memberships

☐ Individual \$25
☐ Family \$35
☐ Patron \$50
☐ Supporting \$75
☐ Benefactor \$100+
☐ Lifetime \$500

Commercial

☐ Basic \$75
☐ Bronze \$150
Additional corporate memberships/sponsorships are available. Call 248.288.3753 for details.

Make checks payable to:

Michigan Mountain Biking Association
5119 Highland Road, PMB 268
Waterford, MI 48327

The MMBA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation. Donations are generally tax-deductible less the value of premiums received. The MMBA federal tax ID is 38-2913713.

Championship Point Series

Add \$7.00 per racer at the start of the race season

Name

Year of Birth Male / Female

Class
(Beginner, Sport, Expert, Elite, SS, Clyde)

CORPORATE SPONSORS

Gold Level (\$1,000 to \$4,999)

Clinton River Riders Bicycle Club

Escape Adventures

www.escapeadventures.com

Kona Bicycles

www.konaworld.com

Silver Level (\$500 to \$999)

American Cycle & Fitness

www.americancycleandfitness.com

Trail's Edge Cyclery

www.trails-edge.com

Bronze Level (\$150 to \$499)

Chain of Lakes Cyclery

Cycletherapy Bicycles LLC

www.ctbicycles.com

Harrington Management Services

Iceman Promotions, Inc.

www.iceman.com

Infiterra Sports, LLC

www.infiterrasports.com

Rochester Bike Shop

www.rochesterbikeshop.com

Wheels in Motion

www.wheelsinmotion.us

Basic Level (\$75 to \$149)

Breakaway Bicycles & Fitness

www.breakawaybicycles.com

Cherry Capital Cycling Club

www.cherry-capital.com

Custer Cyclery

www.custercyclery.com

Cycle to Fitness

www.cycletofitness.com

Cyclefit Multisport

www.cycle-fit.net

Denny's Central Park Bicycles

www.dennyscentralparkbikes.com

Great Lakes Cycling and Fitness

www.greatlakescycling.com

Kentwood Schwinn Cycling & Fit

Keweenaw Adventure Co., LLC

www.keweenawadventure.com

On Two Wheels

Pedal & Tour Cycling & Fitness

Rock 'n' Road Cycle

www.rocknroadcycle.com

Shutter-Monkey

Sportcrafters/Spin Zone

www.sportcrafters.com

Wolf Hulbert Insurance

www.wolfhulbert.com

MEMBER RETAILERS

Ann Arbor

Great Lakes Cycling and Fitness

734-668-6484

www.greatlakescycling.com

Wheels in Motion

734.971.2121

www.wheelsinmotion.us

Augusta

Custer Cyclery

269.731.3492

www.custercyclery.com

Bingham Farms

Wolf Hulbert Insurance

248.290.0650

www.wolfhulbert.com

Copper Harbor

Keweenaw Adventure Co, LLC

906.289.4303

www.keweenawadventure.com

Eagle River, WI

Chain of Lakes Cyclery

715-479-3920

Fenton

Cyclefit Multisport

810.750.2348

www.cycle-fit.net

Grand Haven

Rock 'n' Road Cycle

616.846.2800

www.rocknroadcycle.com

Granger, IN

Sportcrafters/Spin Zone

574.679.4057

www.sportcrafters.com

Grosse Pointe Woods

American Cycle & Fitness

248.960.1371

www.americancycleandfitness.com

Jackson

Pedal & Tour Cycling & Fitness

517.789.6362

Kentwood

Kentwood Schwinn Cycling & Fit

616.942.1880

Livonia

Cycle to Fitness

734.266.8203

www.cycletofitness.com

Macomb Township

American Cycle & Fitness

586-416-1000

www.americancycleandfitness.com

Muskegon

Breakaway Bicycles & Fitness

231.799.0008

www.breakawaybicycles.com

Okemos

Denny's Central Park Bicycles

517.349.8880

www.dennyscentralparkbikes.com

Plymouth

Trail's Edge Cyclery

734.420.1200

www.trails-edge.com

Pontiac

American Cycle & Fitness

248-333-7843

www.americancycleandfitness.com

Portage

Breakaway Bicycles and Fitness

269.324.5555

www.breakawaybicycles.com

Rochester

Rochester Bike Shop

248.652.6376

www.rochesterbikeshop.com

Royal Oak

American Cycle & Fitness

248.542.7182

www.americancycleandfitness.com

Sterling Heights

American Cycle & Fitness

586-979-7570

www.americancycleandfitness.com

Walled Lake

American Cycle & Fitness

248-960-1371

www.americancycleandfitness.com

Waterford

Cycletherapy Bicycles LLC

248.681.8600

www.ctbicycles.com

What We Do

Developing and Maintaining Trails

Our volunteers design, develop, and maintain trails across the State, working with every major recreation land manager. Within Southeast Michigan alone, the MMBA has designed, developed and/or maintains over 100 miles of off road trails.

Our trail design volunteers are trained by IMBA using standards developed by the National Park Service and U.S. Forest Service. Trail design, development, and maintenance are performed by volunteers. These trails have a natural compacted soil surface. They use the natural features of the land, are sustainable, and minimize any effects on the nearby environment, including trees. They are designed to require minimal maintenance.

Promoting Proper Trail Use

We educate all users on proper trail use that is environmentally sound and socially responsible through our web site, newsletters, brochures, posters, emails, trail handbook, and word-of-mouth. We also host various ride clinics during the summer.

Involving Youth in Outdoor Recreation

Our Mountain Kids events focus on providing a positive outdoor recreational experience in a "backcountry" setting for children, ages 8-12, who wouldn't normally

have the opportunity to participate in such activities.

Our CPS Races also allow kids to build fitness and compete in a healthy, outdoors environment.

Helping Others on the Trail

We've partnered with IMBA to develop a National Mountain Bike Patrol in Michigan. Modeled after the National Ski Patrol, our volunteer patrollers are trained in first aid, CPR, and bike repair.

Encouraging More Woman Cyclists

We partner with the DNR and host an annual mountain bike clinic for woman at all levels. The clinic focuses on riding skills, bike repair, bike fitting, and nutrition. We're expanding this concept to monthly educational rides for women only.

Bringing Together Advocacy and Racing

The MMBA hosts a Championship Points Series, one of the most popular mountain bike race series in the U.S. Racers participate at venues across the State and throughout the summer, earning points based on their finishes. At the end of the year we recognize the top ranked individuals within the racing categories. This series serves as a fundraiser for trail development while exposing athletes to the advocacy side of the sport.



Michigan Mountain Biking Association

Bent Rim Bugle

5119 Highland Rd PMB 268
Waterford, MI 48327

Change Service Requested



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